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USSR Report

CONSUMER GOODS AND DOMESTIC TRADE

No. 58

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CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

BSSR TRADE MINISTER ON CONTAINER PROBLEM

Moscow SOVETSKAYA TORGOVLYA in Russian 11 Jan 83 p 2

[Article by N. Makayed, BSSR minister of trade: "The Container Lowers Costs" under the heading "Complex Interbranch Rationalization"]

[Text] Every undertaking begins with careful, detailed preparation. Precisely this has been the approach in our republic to the formulation and realization of a complex interbranch program for the rationalization of commerce. Initially, we set up coordinating councils for the rationalization of commerce. As a rule, they work under the direction of deputy chairmen of the ispolkoms of the Soviets of People's Deputies. The leader of the Republic Council is S. A. Pilotovich, deputy chairman, BSSR Council of Ministers. The process of drawing up the complex rationalization programs is basically completed; they are reviewed by the BSSR Ministry of Trade and the coordinating councils.

A thorough approach of this kind justifies itself. For example, during a review of original materials for Vitebsk Oblast, we came to the conclusion that the directors of the oblast's trade administration were not able to make the industrial enterprises accountable for the fulfillment of their plans. They also did not provide, in the program plan, for organizing base stores and order desks in plants and factories with a calculation of capacities and financial means. At that time, too, there was no satisfactory solution to the problem of packing goods in a central place. After the project was studied, the necessary improvements were made. Likewise, a number of serious criticisms were made on the planned programs of some other oblasts.

Useful experience was garnered by participants in the republic-wide seminar on complex rationalization which was conducted at the end of last year in Soligorsk. They saw with their own eyes how much can be done by the combined forces of trade, industrial enterprises, and construction and transportation organizations with the support of party and Soviet organs. This is evidenced by the contemporary stores and highly mechanized warehousing of the Soligorsk organization of the city food industry and trade.

In program evaluation, special attention was devoted to the introduction of packaging equipment. It must be noted that we have studied the containerization of

shipping for a long time and in some detail. Eight years ago, the BSSR Ministry of Trade staff was expanded to include a subdepartment for planning construction and technology (SPCT) for mechanization with experimental production. It developed a series of containers, production of which was assigned to the experimental mechanization plant in Gomel. Last year, production of packaging equipment reached 17,000 units. Recently almost 74,000 containers were completed for this system. This has made it possible to transfer to the container method the operation of more than 500 stores.

To better administer the complex rationalization, we appreciably expanded the work of our SPCT. Now it is assigned the function of Republic center for methods and coordination in complex rationalization. In all the oblast centers, we developed parallel affiliates of the subdepartment.

The "container conveyor" formed by this series of containers has especially efficient operating results on the "plant to store" route in Mogilev and Brest, where bottled beer is transported to stores from the local breweries in packaging equipment. At the Mogilev and Brest breweries, semiautomated installations to pack bottles have been introduced according to designs drawn up by the SPCT; the productivity rate of the installation is 12,000 units per hour; they are packed in an all-purpose container with a 308-bottle capacity.

In the Mogilev organization for the state food trade, the necessary work has been done to equip 22 stores, the receipt of returnable bottles from customers has been organized, as well as their reshipment to the brewery in containers. The loading and unloading time for one truck has been reduced to 8-10 minutes from 40 minutes and the circuit time for packaging equipment to 2 days, down from 5 days.

Starting with the semiautomated bottle-packer, the SPCT has developed a semiautomated line for the picking and stacking of Eurobottles in the packing equipment. In the first quarter of 1983 it will be installed at the "Belarus'" brewery in Minsk. Development of a similar line for milk production in bottles is drawing to a close. We are conducting experiments with transporting wine, eggs, paints and varnishes and other products in containers.

In the years from 1983 to 1985, there are plans to manufacture 19 semiautomated lines and semiautomated installations for the picking and stacking of bottles in packing equipment with subsequent delivery to the breweries and dairy combines in the oblast centers and major industrial cities of the Republic. This equipment will be released for trial production by our subdepartment and also at the Minsk "Myasomolmash" plant. The responsibility for subassembly and details goes to the major industrial enterprises such as the Minsk assembly-line plant, the Minsk machine-building plant imeni S. M. Kirov, the scientific research institute for automated production and others. The mechanization of loading and unloading processes for bottles utilizing containers will allow the basic transition to containerized delivery of bottled beer and milk to occur in the course of this Five-Year Plan.

Serious attention is being paid in Gomel by industrial enterprises to fulfilling the complex interbranch program. In the last Five-Year Plan, the "Gomsel'mash" combine was responsible for constructing two all-purpose machines with a total area of 1,600 m² in the oblast center. Now, construction of yet another all-purpose machine is nearing completion. Funds have been appropriated for planning and construction of a large-scale procurement factory. In this Five-Year Plan, industrial enterprises in the city intend to build 18 new stores and reconstruct or remodel 34 existing ones as well as 9 reception stations for recycled glass, and to manufacture over one thousand units of different devices. The material and technical base of the experiment is being strengthened. At the "Bakaleya" oblast base in Gomel, production has begun with a warehouse and packing department whose total area is 6,400 m² and a refrigeration unit with a simultaneous storage capacity of 10,000 tons.

Substantial assistance is rendered to the local rayon food distribution association plant in solving problems in the complex interbranch rationalization of trade by the Minsk combine "BelavtoMAZ" and No. 11 State Ball-Bearing Plant. Thanks to these enterprises' work, 4 retail enterprises have been reconstructed and 29 stores have installed movable floors for the reception of automated packaging containers in the sales rooms. In the 11th Five-Year Plan, altogether more than 1,500 units of different mechanization devices to make the salespeople's work easier will have been introduced through the work of the Minsk industrial enterprises.

However, it would be premature to say that the interbranch program had been successfully completed. Although goods transported by packing equipment have increased in volume to 2.5 times the previous value, the end result still does not represent full utilization of existing capacities. For this reason, in revising such programs, we plan to increase to more than 4 times its previous value the volume of containerized shipping from wholesale bases and warehouses to retail stores, bringing the amount up to 40-50% of total sales. Containers are being fitted out with the necessary equipment and mechanization devices, while stores are being remodeled to include ramps and movable floors.

Unfortunately, by no means all suppliers are willingly accepting containerization. For example, specialists at the Ministry of Trade developed technology for containerized delivery of goods from the Borisov macaroni factory, and the required amount of equipment was provided. However, the Borisov macaroni factory took over a year to start transferring its production to the new methods. And then? The machinery was loaded with one or two classes of goods and transported to the "Bakaleya" oblast base. There it had to undergo sorting, so as to deliver containers with a more varied assortment of goods to the stores. The factory workers refused to handle the sorting in their dispatch office: they said there was no room. And the result: front-line technology applied to little effect.

We would like to raise still another question. The most basic direction of complex rationalization is the mechanization of labor-intensive processes. But

machinery of some classes is released by industry with obsolete technological features and does not meet today's standards. For example, utilization of automatic weighing feeders of type DRK-1 and scales of type DSK-1 requires manual labor, which lessens their usefulness at wholesale bases. The Voronezh machine-building plant imeni V. I. Lenin cannot utilize serial output of equipment for sugar unpacking. There is no specialized apparatus for packing pastry items in wholesale and retail trade organizations. There is a shortage of packaging materials year after year. There are few elevators and lifting platforms; spare parts for the machinery are scarce. The volume of packing products in industry is growing slowly, often as a result of inadequate capital investment for this purpose by USSR ministries. In a word, far and away not all problems in mechanized trade can be solved locally. For this reason, it is expedient to create an All-Union interdepartmental coordinating council with a mandate to advance the cause of complex rationalization of trade more rapidly and effectively.

9582

CSO: 1827/91

CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

TRADE INSTITUTE DIRECTOR LAMENTS WASTE OF BREAD

Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 11 Feb 83 p 3

[Interview with Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yarovnikov, deputy director of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for the Study of Demand for Consumer Goods and Market Conditions (VNIKS), by Yu. Chaplygin, SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA editor for the department of economics and propaganda: "Nothing Is More Precious Than Bread"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Bread is a symbol of strength, of prosperity. It has been and remains a measure of all values. There is truth in the folksaying: "You can tell how well people eat by the quality of their bread." Our loaf weighs 90,000 tons--that is how much bread and hulled and milled products the industry delivers daily to the table of the Soviet people. In an average year that means 138 kg of hulled and milled products for each of us. How are they consumed? Are we sensible in our use of this most important possession? A. Yarovnikov, deputy director of VNIKS, answers these and other questions put by Yu. Chaplygin, our editor for the department of economics and propaganda.

[Question] Recently there has been widespread discussion of the problem of a thrifty attitude toward bread. What do you think Aleksandr Nikolayevich, what brought this about?

[Answer] I suppose it is because it has become obvious to many people that we are using our most valuable resources--cereals--inefficiently and sometimes even carelessly. I will clarify this with an example. Suppose you have just bought a long loaf of white bread. But do you know what it is, how much it costs society? The flour from approximately 11,000-12,000 kernels of wheat went into it. To obtain those kernels 4 square meters of fertile land had to be plowed and the crop had to be planted and raised. Then it had to be harvested, dried and the grain milled, the flour delivered to the bakery, the actual loaf baked, sent out to the store in good time and sold to you for only 13 kopecks. In my view the inputs of social labor in all these stages are not in line with the price of the end product. That is why these economic and moral collisions are occurring which are today disturbing all of us. We are especially alarmed by the excessive losses of hulled and milled products. You can make a judgment about that from the fact that their per capita consumption is dropping constantly, while production is rising....

[Question] It follows that in consumption of hulled and milled products there is a channel through which the country's most important resource is leaking away pointlessly?

[Answer] I think that is precisely the essence of the problem which bothers us. In recent years there has been a noticeable change in our diet; there is now smaller consumption of hulled and milled products, but the volume of their production and sales has by no means diminished. What is going on here? Apparently an ever larger part of hulled and milled products are not reaching the dining table. Here are the facts. If we start with 1970, per capita consumption of hulled and milled products has dropped 11 kg. Mainly because of city dwellers, whose per capita consumption is now 132 kg of all hulled and milled products. There have been no changes among rural inhabitants: at the present time every one of them now consumes the same as some 10 years or so ago--170 kg. Now we take production. The bread-baking industry alone has increased the output of its product by more than 3 million tons. The volume of their sales has increased by almost 2 billion rubles, and retail purchases of flour, hulled products and macaroni products have increased by 1.5 billion rubles.

[Question] The losses of bread are affected by the narrowness of the assortment. Industry is capable of manufacturing some thousand different products, but the selection in the stores is small, and families are forced to do baking at home, which is wasteful. At present there is a manifest shortage of small-piece goods. Not uncommonly we encounter rejected bread--sometimes misshapen, sometimes the crust is burned, or it was not kneaded properly, and there are cases when they sell day-old, stale bread in the stores--it was delivered late, and there is no protective wrapper. But do these causes account for a large amount of waste?

[Answer] The term "reject," just like the term "waste," is not suitable for bread. But unfortunately both types of loss are still great. They occur precisely because of an unthrifty attitude--in production, in the trade sector, and also in the home. It is not everywhere that you can buy bread that has been sliced, much less packaged in small portions. You buy a long loaf, even two, or even an entire bukhanka [molded loaf, usually rye]. If it is not eaten, it is no matter: After all, bread costs only kopecks. It has been calculated that more than 1 kg of bread scraps accumulates in the average family in 1 week.

[Question] But to some extent these scraps are still used....

[Answer] That is just it--"to some extent." Our surveys have shown that only one-fourth of the old bread is used in preparing croutons, rusks, bread crumbs and other things for the table. The rest is thrown out if it is not collected to feed livestock. An effort is made to turn in an empty bottle, but bread is thrown away. Is this not an economic paradox? And the substantial waste of bread already baked used to feed livestock?! In certain regions they amount to 400 kg a year per family. This is probably the main channel of the losses.

[Question] How is this channel to be closed? It is evident that such losses of bread will not be curtailed by some mere measure?

[Answer] An interrelated set of measures is, of course, needed here. First, the prices of hulled and milled products, in the opinion of certain economists, should correspond more closely to their production costs. Second, for those who keep livestock there is a need to create more favorable conditions for purchasing feeds. The state of affairs with mixed feeds needs to be straightened out. USSR Ministry of Trade needs at least 17 million tons of concentrated feeds per year for sale to the public, but only 5 million tons have been allocated. Third, there is a need to raise the quality and expand the assortment of hulled and milled products, to produce more of them in small sizes, and to sell them in protective packaging. This will make it possible not only to reduce losses of bread in consumption, but also to bring about a relative reduction of its production, which in and of itself will signify a substantial saving of grain resources.

[Question] In certain regions of the country experiments in optimum bread consumption are being conducted. What have been the results?

[Answer] Good on the whole. For example, in Lithuania bread consumption has dropped 20 percent thanks to sensible organization of its distribution. In a number of oblasts of RSFSR the weight of the bread serving has been cut in half in dining halls, coffeehouses and restaurants. The bread consumption per customer has dropped 7 percent, and the amount of waste bread has dropped to one-half or one-third.

[Question] Given the amount of hulled and milled products we consume, such results must be given very high marks. And if this attitude toward bread is to become universal, there will have to be an important enhancement of responsibility for bread--both economic responsibility and also civic responsibility....

[Answer] I agree completely. When we take in our hands a long loaf of white bread or a large loaf of rye bread, we should not only recall with gratitude the labor of those who gave it to us, but also remember that this is a basic foodstuff for us as human beings and there is nothing more precious than bread.

7045

CSO: 1827/111

CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

PLANTS URGED TO INCREASE CONTAINER PRODUCTION

Canning Industry Topics

Moscow KONSERVNAYA I OVOSHCHESUSHIL'NAYA PROMYSHLENNOST' in Russian No 1,
Jan 83 p 1

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Processing and Shipping Containers

Moscow KONSERVNAYA I OVOSHCHESUSHIL'NAYA PROMYSHLENNOST' in Russian No 1, Jan 83 pp 2-5

[Lead article: "Prospects for Development of Production of Processing and Shipping Containers for the Canning Industry"]

[Text] The decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the Food Program approved by the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee have paid particular attention to measures that will guarantee preservation and reduce losses of produce. Even within the current 5-year period there are plans to increase procurement and processing of fruit and vegetables by 30-35 percent and by 1985 to bring the output of canned fruit and vegetables to 11 billion cans (standard). If this output is to be a substantial contribution to the country's food balance, it has to be delivered to the public without losing its high quality and in packaging and containers convenient for the consumer.

The kind of container that should be used at canning enterprises to pack the product for the consumer and the size of such containers depends on many sectors of the country's economy, including ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, the chemical industry, the glass industry, the machinebuilding industry, and the timber and paper industry.

Traditional containers are used in our country for production of canned goods: glass jars with lids made of tin- and chrome-plated thin steel sheet or aluminum and cans of thin steel sheet and aluminum strip.

In 1985 plans call for using 6.5 billion jars on a 0.5-liter basis (70 percent of the entire requirement) as well as 300,000 tons (30 percent) of thin steel

sheet and aluminum (converted to thin steel sheet) for making cans and jar lids.

But glass containers have a number of shortcomings. Their use does not make it possible to increase the productivity of processing equipment, it imposes high costs in shipping and storing the jars both before and after filling. In addition, the losses from breakage amount to 250 to 300 million jars of just the 0.5-liter size.

Production of canned goods in metal containers makes it possible to increase the productivity of processing equipment in filling and sealing 70-80 percent over glass containers, reduces labor intensiveness and sterilization time by 30-35 percent, and reduces the need for warehouse and shipping space by 30 percent.

At the same time production of the necessary volume of metal containers is being held back by inadequate resources of tinplate of the required grade of coating. That is why plans for manufacturing metal containers call for increasing the use of materials which are not so scarce: tinplate with a low tin content, chrome-plated thin steel sheet, and also aluminum strip.

In 1980-1981 the use of differentiated thin steel sheet was 25,000-30,000 tons. The use of chrome-plated thin steel sheet and aluminum has expanded. Manufacturing instructions have been drafted for use of chrome-plated sheet and aluminum for making containers for canned fruits and vegetables. Work has been done on lithographing them.

In 1982 the use of chrome-plated sheet reached 10,000 tons, including 3,000 tons at enterprises of the Ministry of Fruit and Vegetable Industry of RSFSR, 4,000 tons in UkSSR, 2,000 tons in GSSR, and so on. In 1985 the output of this material is to be brought up to 25,000 tons.

Thanks to joint projects carried out by scientific research institutes (VNIKOP [All-Union Scientific Research Institute of the Canning and Dehydrated Vegetable Industry], TsNIIChM [Central Scientific Research Institute of Ferrous Metallurgy imeni I. P. Bardin], GIPI LKP [State Research and Planning Institute of the Paint and Varnish Industry], and VNIPlastmass [All-Union Scientific Research Plastics Institute]) has led to production tests of industrial lots of thin steel sheet and new types of varnishes and systems of coating for cans, including tests of tinplate with an underlayer of tin of a varying degree of hardness to determine its field of application.

Production tests are also intended for new samples of aluminum strip of improved quality for making stamped cans and lids with higher chemical resistance of the varnish coating. Favorable results of tests are making it possible to expand the assortment of canned goods manufactured in aluminum containers.

In 1982 the quality of aluminum strip delivered by the metallurgical industry has improved, which has made it possible to use stamped cans and lids for packing certain canned vegetables, snacks and other canned goods. Yet

enterprises of the canning industry in RSFSR, UkSSR, and MSSR have not taken sufficient advantage of this opportunity and have cut back the use of stamped cans and lids in packing "Green Peas" and "Vegetable Marrow Caviar."

Assuming further improvement of the quality of varnished aluminum strip and fullest utilization of capacities for production of stamped cans at the Astrakhan Canning Plant and the Crimean Order of Lenin Canning Combine, as well as at the Tiraspol Pilot Plant for Metallolithography and the Vinnitsa Plant of Container Closures, plans for 1985 call for increasing the output of canned fruits and vegetables to 200 million standard cans.

In order to guarantee production of metal containers in the necessary quantities small-scale varnish printing shops are to be built in associations of the canning industry, including four shops at enterprises of the RSFSR Ministry of Fruit and Vegetable Industry, three shops in UkSSR, and one shop each in BSSR, KaSSR and GSSR.

The canning industry administration and administrations for production and for distribution of containers and other packaging materials of USSR Minplodoovoshchkhov [Ministry of Fruit and Vegetable Industry] and the fruit and vegetable industry ministries of the union republics are to extend effective aid to enterprises in building the shops, in purchasing and installing the varnish printing equipment, and in activating the capacities on schedule. It is very important to train qualified specialists--setupmen, mechanics, and also the workers who will run the machines and to supply steel sheet, varnishes, inks and other materials to the new shops and those already in operation.

In connection with the planned introduction of new varnish-printing and tin-can line in the canning industry during the current 5-year period, making it possible to use steel sheet in the 1,000 x 1,000-mm size, and in view of the planned 50-60-percent increase in the volume of output of this sheet in the metallurgical industry and its initial production in 1983 at the Karaganda Metallurgical Combine, VNIKOP must develop, and the Administration for Production and Distribution of Containers and Other Packaging Materials of USSR Minplodoovoshchkhov, jointly with administrations of the canning industry and containers, must introduce new patterns for cutting the present can sizes and types from the larger-size sheets of metal.

Later USSR Minplodoovoshchkhov should take up the question of designing economical new cans (with respect to capacity, body diameter and other indicators) in accordance with the larger new size of the metal sheets.

Enterprises and associations should pay particular attention to introducing can sizes 43 and 47, which are economical types used in industry and which afford a saving of 7-10 percent of sheet metal as compared to can sizes 9 and 14.

On behalf of maximum introduction of economical tin cans with low-tin coatings and its substitutes VNIKOP must extend technical aid to enterprises in the use of sealing compositions for the LPU-1P and LPU-2P tinplate cans, as well as introduction of new systems of varnish coatings: two- and three-layer coatings for baby foods and corrosive types of preserved foods.

A promising direction in the production of containers for packaging jams and fruit butters and also certain canned fruits and vegetables sterilized in the manufacturing process is to replace steel sheet and aluminum strip with polymer (rigid polyvinyl chloride, polypropylene, polystyrene, etc.) and combined materials on an aluminum-foil base. Containers made of combined materials on a cardboard base and aluminum base with polymer coatings will soon be used for aseptic filling of fruit and vegetable juices. There is also an interest in large film containers (special bags) with a spigot for packaging juices shipped to stores in cardboard cartons. VNIKOP should conduct extensive research on introduction of this packaging in industry.

Packages made of polymer films and laminated cardboard boxes are used for frozen products. But the spread of containers is being held back by design defects and the lack of the necessary quantity of equipment. Machinebuilders have a duty to improve the design of equipment for manufacturing and filling these package containers.

In view of the shortage of the domestic materials and the lack of the necessary quantity of equipment canning enterprises have been forced to use containers of polymer and combined materials purchased abroad.

With a view to expanding the use of containers convenient for the consumer scientific research organizations of USSR Minplodoovoshchkhov, USSR Minrybkhov [Ministry of Fishing Industry], Minkhimprom [Ministry of Chemical Industry] and USSR Mintsvetmet [Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy] are jointly developing and organizing production of coating material on an aluminum-foil base (polyvinyl chloride), combined on a cardboard and aluminum-foil base for sterilized foods and a combined type of lamister (steralkon).

Domestic equipment is now being developed for stamping containers from lamister and filling it with the product to be preserved. This kind of container withstands the temperature of sterilization and can replace metal cans for certain types of preserved foods, especially those consisting of chopped vegetables and fruit and also purees.

The use of containers made from film and combined materials will make it possible to save tin, steel sheet, and aluminum, as well as 25 rubles per ton of the finished product.

With a view to replacing the outdated method of sealing glass jars with SKO lids (Type I), new jars have been introduced in the canning industry with Type II (Eurocap) and Type III (twist-off) closures, which are being used in the production of 60-70 million standard cans of fruit and vegetables a year.

To solve the complex problem of expanding the volume of application and large-scale transition to modern methods of closure enterprises of Ministroy Materialov [Ministry of Construction Materials] are to put new equipment into production which will make it possible to increase the output of jars to 250 million in 1985, i.e., by 4-5-fold.

Plants of Minlegpishchemash [Ministry of Machinebuilding for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances] are conducting tests of domestic lines for manufacturing lids of these types, and series production of the equipment is to begin in 1983-1984. The manufacture of 4-5 lines a year will by the end of the 5-year period guarantee production of an additional 250-300 million standard cans of preserved foods, and in the 12th Five-Year Plan their annual growth will be 100-150 million standard cans.

The task of personnel of Glavkonserv [Main Administration of Canning Industry] and the Container Administration of USSR Minplodoovoshchkhov, VNIKOP, the VNIPKI [All-Union Scientific Research, Project Planning and Design Institute] "Konservpromkompleks" is to speed up solution of the problems of using domestic steel sheet, varnishes, enamels and sealing compositions. There is a need to expand the manufacturing of lids with Type III closure made from 0.25-mm sheet produced by the Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine, and, after the metallurgists have put into production double-rolled sheet, to organize the manufacture of Type II lids from sheet 0.20 mm thick.

The Container Administration of USSR Minplodoovoshchkhov, jointly with Minkhimprom, needs to solve the problem of restoring production at enterprises of the chemical industry of sealing compositions and enamels for lids with Type II and III closure. These materials have been used successfully in the canning industry.

In addition, the canning industry and container administrations of the ministries of fruit and vegetable industry of RSFSR, UkSSR, MSSR and GSSR should identify enterprises which can best specialize in producing canned goods in jars with the modern Type II and III closure, furnish them the appropriate equipment and by 1985 guarantee production of 300 million standard cans of food in these containers. To that end specialized shops for manufacturing lids should be expanded at enterprises in Tiraspol, Astrakhan and Odessa and new ones built in RSFSR, the Ukraine, Georgia and other republics.

Thus having built the physical capability in the fruit and vegetable industry and achieving the appropriate expansion of production of jars, varnishes, and sealing compositions in other sectors, it is possible to guarantee fulfillment of the 5-year plan and by 1985 to produce canned goods in containers with Type II and III closure in the required amount.

An important stage in the effort to introduce new types of containers is putting into operation in 1983 the Azov Industrial Complex for Production of Canned Baby Foods, where new types of jars and closures will be extensively used as well as up-to-date packaging of the finished product in corrugated cardboard cartons and shrink wrap. To that end the Canning Industry Administration and Container Administration of RSFSR Minplodoovoshchkhov, jointly with Glavkonserv and the Container Administration of USSR Minplodoovoshchkhov, VNIKOP and VNIPKI "Konservpromkompleks," need to take steps so that shops are put into operation on schedule at the Azov complex for the production of jars and bottles, lids and caps for them, as well as measures to guarantee production of containers from steel sheet and aluminum and other materials. Proper technical use of equipment to manufacture and fill containers with baby food should be guaranteed.

Shipping containers have an important role in ensuring the preservation of fruit and vegetables in canned and fresh form during shipment, warehouse handling and storage.

The principal form of shipping container used is the uneconomical, materials-intensive and above all handmade wooden container. Compared to cardboard, it takes up more than 60 percent in the balance of resources. The need of enterprises of USSR Minplodoovoshchkhov for this expensive packaging is 350-370 million crates in 1982-1983, which is equivalent to 8 million cubic meters of timber in the log.

The shipment of canned goods requires 70-80 million crates, or 1.7 million cubic meters of timber in the log. In 1985 the requirement for shipping and produce containers will increase by 105 million crates, or 30 percent.

In the system of USSR Minplodoovoshchkhov there are 20 container enterprises producing knockdown wooden crates and manufacturing boxes and cartons from corrugated cardboard.

The fastest transition is needed to completely mechanize production of wooden crates and to the introduction and use of progressive types of containers--polyethylene crates and trays, cartons made from water-resistant cardboard, and fiberboard drums.

The real economic benefit from the transition to progressive containers results mainly from replacing the expensive raw material. Use of cardboard containers reduces manufacturing costs 2.8-fold over wood containers, reduces capital outlays 2.2-fold, reduces costs of loading and unloading operations threefold, and cuts back the use of lumber 3.4-fold.

The production of progressive types of boxes and crates, including those from polymers and corrugated cardboard, and of fiberboard drums will make it possible by 1985 to reduce consumption of commercial timber by 1.3 million cubic meters, to reduce costs 15 million rubles on the basis of reduction of manpower. The total economic benefit will be 36 million rubles.

One of the most important tasks in setting up a reliable system for delivery of fruit and vegetables for storage and for their processing and delivery to the trade network is broad use of container shipments. Delivery of products in containers will yield an economic benefit of 13.7 rubles per ton of produce. It also makes it possible to reduce the consumption of commercial timber, the idle time of transportation equipment, and the need for manpower in loading and unloading operations.

The need for containers will be 9.5 million units by 1985 if the volume of container traffic increases to 11.3 million tons. Given a further growth in the volume of production of fruit and vegetables, the need for containers will increase in the period up to 1990. There are accordingly plans at enterprises to organize container areas immediately at loading and unloading places and to equip them with freight-handling machinery.

In order to perform the tasks set by the Food Program there are plans in the current 5-year period to build three plants for manufacturing shipping containers from polymer materials (in the system of the fruit and vegetable industry ministries of RSFSR, UzSSR and MSSR) with a capacity of 7 million crates per year at each plant.

In addition, there are plans to build 14 plants for mechanized assembly of wooden crates from knockdown kits with a capacity of 6 million pieces per year at each one, as well as three plants for production of fiberboard drums with a capacity of 1.2 million drums per year at each one.

Aside from that, there are plans to replace worn-out equipment for making corrugated cardboard cartons at existing plants, in particular at the Khachmas Canning Plant in AzSSR and the Novotashkentskiy Canning Plant in UzSSR.

In accordance with the plans outlined for technical development, enterprises and associations of the industry of USSR Minplodoovoshchkhov are to draft and carry out measures to economize on shipping containers which should call for packing finished products in returnable containers, packaging on pallets, and containerization.

It is becoming especially important to organize the shipment of finished canned goods to the Far North packaged on pallets and shrink-wrapped. By 1985 as much as 25 percent of the total volume of output is to be shipped packaged on pallets.

In the current 5-year period, now that enterprises of Minkhimprom are manufacturing shrink film, it has become possible to carry out the program of the transition to returnable containers and the shipment of products packaged on pallets. But introduction of this program is being held back because of inadequate production of the film and inadequate furnishing of equipment to enterprises. At the end of the 5-year period this method will be used to package 1-1.2 billion standard cans of food. This will make it possible to reduce consumption of commercial timber in the amount of 160,000 cubic meters and to considerably reduce the costs of loading and unloading operations.

The container administration and VNIKO must promote and assist VNIKITU [All-Union Research and Experimental Design Institute of packing and packaging materials] in compiling a master chart of development in production of shipping containers in the ministry's system over the period 1985-1990.

The Container Administration of USSR Minplodoovoshchkhov, jointly with Glavkonserv and the administrations for the canning industry and container sector of the fruit and vegetable industry ministries of the union republics must take effective steps to introduce new types of metal, glass and polymer processing and shipping containers so that by 1990 up-to-date packaging is provided for the entire output of canned goods.

The tasks facing personnel of the canning and container sectors call for strengthening and expanding the existing physical and technical capability and for creating new directions in furnishing shipping and processing containers on the basis of advances which have been made in the fruit and vegetable and related sectors.

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CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

BETTER PLANNING IN LIGHT INDUSTRY PRODUCTION CALLED FOR

Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 19 Jan 83 p 2

[Article by staff correspondent D Melikov: "The Traveling Meat Grinder"]

[Text] For some years now in the old section of Baku, in a corner of a cozy square with a monument to Mirza Fatali Akhundov, on warm days there appears a very gray haired old man. Ceremoniously he settles down on his homemade stool and lays out his simple pieces of work: nicely turned rolling pins, brooms, cutting boards, spoons, ladles. And the buyers appear.

The woodworker in a corner of the square is not an anachronism, not a genre painting of old Baku. It is by no means an accident that his trade and his articles, as much as the stable demand for them, are preserved and live on.

Large scale industry finds a thousand and one reasons not to produce the "thousand" little things that we need. Some executives say that they don't have the available productive capacities, others cite difficulties with raw materials, while still others seem to have enough of each but complain about personnel. Yet in fact, with the reinforcement of cost accounting it is the profitable consumer articles that are being put into production, things which are a bit larger and more expensive, things that "work for the plan", and, of course, furnish fewer worries.

What is the use, shall we say, to enterprises of the Soyuzneftemash All-Union Production Association--the largest metals stockholder in the republic--of door hinges or scissors manufactured from scrap materials? They're worth next to nothing.

"Scissors? That's complicated, don't you know?" is what you will be told by the creators of modern remote controlled units and machines for the country's oil and gas extraction workers. Yet from the same scrap material they will devise for the market some little item of lesser technology with a higher price. It is no accident that the output of consumer goods at 12 of the association's machine building plants does not even reach 1 percent of the basic volume of production. And so it happens that door hinges, for example, are imported into the republic across the length of the country, from Voronezh, Kursk, Moscow, Kuybyshev, Leningrad--from 32 suppliers altogether. It has become commonplace for the republic's padlocks to be obtained from Altay,

Bashkiria, Novosibirsk, from 39 suppliers. Traveling meat grinders come to Baku from Chelyabinsk and Kirovograd, axes from Sverdlovsk, Udmurtiya, Transcarpathia and Perm.

Today three-fourths of the "little trifles" are imported into Azerbaijan from other republics. The remaining one-fourth must be provided by the republic's enterprises, but often they don't cope with orders. In 1981, for example, the trade in consumer and everyday household goods fell short by 38 million rubles. The situation was little changed even last year. The upshot is that the topic is little things but the bill--pay attention!--comes to tens of millions.

Trade organizations also bear blame for this. They are weak in influencing industry and are not monitoring plants' and factories' adherence to contract obligations.

For many years it has been known that enterprises subordinate to the union level are very reluctant to take on the production of "little trifles." Why does this happen? Any little item requires simple technology, an appropriate amount of "filling" in production. There is yet another, nearly fundamental problem.

In order to satisfy the demand for "little things," not very much, as a rule, is needed. So let's say, 20,000 polyethylene cannisters, 30,000 basins, 15,000 washing machine faucets. We'll set up production, the executives reason; in 6 months we'll produce 20,000 of the "wonder" ovens that are in short supply, we'll satisfy the demand, and then what? Change over to the output of other small items? It's difficult. Even economically unprofitable. Consequently the business has to be side tracked. Potential producers are often frightened off by the small size of the order, the fear of being left with unsold products. Hence the maintenance of a stable deficit, at times even to one's own detriment.

For example, the demand for all-purpose adhesives is enormous, those for fastening tiles, linoleum, paper, wallpaper and wooden articles. A center of the "Azerbkhoztorg" under the Azerbaijan SSR Ministry of Trade was forced to order 60 tons of such an adhesive in Brest and Krivoy Rog. At the same time, "Bustilat-2" all-purpose adhesive, having excellent features, is produced at the Sumgait Synthetic Rubber Plant. The plant has the capacity to meet the demand of the entire Transcaucasian region with this adhesive. Still, the matter has not progressed beyond conversations over the manifold merits of "Bustilat-2." Output of the new item is also held back by the lack of containers. And it is also unknown where else it can be sold after satisfying the local market.

The same thing is true of certain other goods. The republic has at its disposal raw materials, a broad range of chemical products, the equipment and the technology. Given low outlays and the desire, the production of paint and varnish, solvents, white mineral pigment and water based paint can be set up. At present, trade organizations are required to import these goods from Yerevan, Sukhumi and Kutaisi. It's amusing that the republic exports an immense quantity of paraffin, while it gets ordinary candles from Omsk!

It should be recalled that just a few years ago industry institutes, in cooperation with the Soyuzbytkhim All-Union Production Association, justified and defined basic directions for the production of mass demand goods at Sumgait chemical enterprises. Moreover, the mix of goods was coordinated with trade organizations and fixed. In 1980, it was decided to specialize the "Khimprom" plant in the production of bleaching, disinfecting and detergent agents and wallpaper adhesive. The "Orgsintez" Plant was to become a supplier of paint vehicles, paints, varnish, putty and solvents. It was planned to open a shop to produce articles made of polyethylene and a shop to produce souvenirs. Unfortunately, the important venture just didn't move off dead center. And the reason is the same: incentive is lacking, and there are fears that the plants would soon begin producing for the warehouse and not for the store counter.

It seems that the need has long since matured in Transcaucasia for implementing interrepublic specialization in the output of goods of primary necessity. Indeed, SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA has pointed out in one of its articles that the Baltic republics and Belorussia coordinate their activities in such a manner. Once the demand and industrial capacities have been studied, it would be possible to apportion the production of unavailable "little trifles" in exactly this way between Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. Such an approach is beneficial from all standpoints. It allows the result to be attained with minimal outlays.

What is needed is coordinated efforts, compatible actions and serious planning. Then supply and demand will begin to move in step.

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CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

COOPERATIVES URGED TOWARD GREATER PRODUCTION

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jan 83 p 3

[Article by K. Yelyutin: "Cooperatives Make Purchases: What Interferes With Consumers' Unions Increasing Food Resources?"]

[Excerpt] Almost everything offered at the fairs and in the city cooperative trade organization stores is purchased from the population. This even includes the products which Odessa residents obtain from the cooperatives located right at industrial enterprises. As was noted at the May 1982 CPSU Central Committee Plenum, household farming and the private plot are a highly significant source for supplementing local food resources. Further increasing assistance to these farms has a rapid and tangible effect. The Central Union of Consumers' Societies can do a lot here. A significant portion of the crop from private plots still escapes the storage places of the cooperatives. It is fine if the owner of a private plot has time and transportation to deliver excess produce to the market. But what if he doesn't? Then the assortment of goods on its shelves grows scanty and prices rise noticeably.

A number of places in the country attempt to regulate this by administrative measures. But such practice has led to reduced delivery of products to the bazaars, and to the rise of spontaneous "trade points." In the end, supplies for the population are reduced, and as a rule, the cost of fruits and vegetables increases.

The most effective factor influencing price reduction is increasing the production and delivery of products which are in demand. Growth in the quantity of deliveries to markets of the gifts of the fields and orchards has been provided for by the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers Decree, "Additional measures To Increase the Sale of Fruits and Vegetables By Kolkhozes, Sovkhozes and Other Agricultural Enterprises To Consumer Cooperatives and Kolkhoz Markets."

As we see, sellers at bazaars and fairs are getting more and more business partners. But the oldest of them, which still today play the leading role, are the cooperatives. What is interfering with their improving the purchase of products from the population, and consequently with increasing their sales in the cities and industrial centers? We will examine some of the reasons.

We will begin with the mechanism for establishing the selling prices for agricultural products purchased from the population. They are determined by the management of the corresponding cooperatives, based on the prices at which the products were obtained, and expenses for purchase, delivery and sale. Retail prices for products sold by cooperatives are maintained below market prices.

And here one of the state purchasing agents, I. Ovsyannikov, an employee of the Golopristsanskiy Regional Procurement Office, Kherson Oblast, sets out on the circuit of farms which he services to purchase pork at a price of 1 ruble 80 kopecks per kilogram from the delivery agents. But the evening before his colleagues from the neighboring Krim Oblast passed through on the same route and obtained the same pork for 30 kopecks more. Since we are speaking here of a product which is marketed in many regions of the country (in Kherson Oblast itself it does not remain on the shelves of the city cooperatives' stores), it is doubtful that such price competition is useful.

It is not a problem today for private plot proprietors to sell cattle or poultry to the cooperatives. But many gardeners experience difficulties in selling fresh pears, plums and apples. For example, A. Balyura, member of the Kherson Horticultural Collective sold 280 kilograms of pears to the cooperatives. She would have liked to have continued her cooperation with them last Autumn as well, but in the region, where several large gardening cooperatives are located, state purchasing agents very rarely appear.

Local soviets must help the unions of consumers' societies to reach each farmstead or country plot. During the height of the purchasing period, cooperatives need specialized vehicles to transport produce from remote areas. They also do not have sufficient packing materials, refrigerators and modern trading halls in order to best bring the produce to the citizen.

Frequently readers of PRAVDA indignantly report about meeting traders at markets who go around to cities and towns and buy up vegetables and fruits and then sell them at exorbitant prices. How can lovers of the "almighty ruble" be discouraged from asking excessively high prices for their goods? The cooperatives of Penza, which have organized one of the country's first trading and purchasing enterprises (TPE), may help answer this question. It leaves one-fifth of the trading area of the city's central market, but this is quite enough to actively influence market forces.

The cooperatives' assortment of goods is not sparse on any of the bazaar trading days. Stocks are replenished regularly, as the TPE maintains permanently operating reception points at each central kolkhoz or sovkhos farmstead. There are now approximately 160 in the oblast. Therefore, when the price of pork, for example, rises to 4 rubles 50 kopecks per kilogram at the market, the TPE sellers sell meat for a ruble less. The buyers give unqualified support to such price competition.

Well what about pomegranates, watermelons, tangerines and other southern crops which do not grow in the Penza area? The central union advises that excess products be bought only from people who bring products from contiguous

regions of neighboring oblasts, krais and republics. However, as is well known, grapes and walnuts do not ripen in areas adjacent to Penza. But the TPE sells them just the same. TPE workers are not above going to any region of the country in search of exotic fruit, if the price becomes excessively high due to the lack of competition at the local market.

Cooperatives can noticeably influence reducing market prices only because they daily offer the buyers the same wide assortment of products as do private individuals.

This was so until the joint document of the RSFSR Union of Consumers' Societies administration and the RSFSR office of USSR Gosbank was published, which forbade giving advance credit and cash to enterprises and organizations which buy products beyond the boundaries of the region of their operations, and from people who deliver products from other than neighboring oblasts. Obviously, banning the acceptance of crops from those who come from distant krais after the "almighty ruble" is justified. But it is hardly justified to approach the evaluation of the enterprise of the consumers' unions using the same yardstick. The results of their commercial dealings should primarily be evaluated from the position of the consumer.

Perhaps it would be advisable to create at the Central Union a sort of bank of offers to sell, from the millions of proprietors of private plots and orchard and garden cooperatives who are experiencing difficulties in selling their products, and direct to them representatives of those consumers' unions in whose environs pomegranate groves do not flourish and grapes do not bear fruit. I think that the residents of many regions of the country would gladly participate.

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CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

MEASURES FOR ENHANCING PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY DISCUSSED

Moscow PLANOVOYE KHOZYAYSTVO in Russian No 1, Jan 83 pp 83-86

[Article by A. Lavrov, USSR Gosplan deputy subdepartment chief: "Effectiveness of Retooling Existing Production Operations"]

[Text] Fuller and more efficient utilization of fixed productive capital is one of the key tasks of the 11th Five-Year Plan. The importance of performing it is emphasized by the fact that by 1985 the volume of the national income is to increase while capital investments will increase less in both absolute and relative terms than over the last 5 years. Reconstruction and retooling of existing enterprises play a special role under those conditions.

Reconstruction usually means complete or partial retooling and reorganization of production carried out under a single project plan (it does not include building new basic shops or expanding existing ones, but if necessary it is possible to build new structures or expand existing ones for auxiliary and support purposes). In the course of a reconstruction project obsolete and actually worn-out equipment is replaced, measures are carried out to mechanize and automate production, disproportions are eliminated in the operation of processing phases and auxiliary services, and measures are outlined to broaden the assortment and improve the quality of products and other technical-and-economic indicators at lower cost and in a shorter time than when new enterprises are built or existing ones are expanded. Reconstruction may be done to change the enterprise's configuration and to take the kinks out of the production of a new product in existing work areas.

The retooling of an existing enterprise means performance of an interrelated set of measures to raise the technical level of particular sections of production, units and installations by introducing new engineering and technology, by mechanizing and automating production processes, by modernizing and replacing outdated and physically worn-out equipment with new and more productive equipment, by eliminating "bottlenecks," and by improving the organization and structure of production and those aspects of operation which pertain to the entire plant. Other organizational and technical measures might be carried out (without expanding existing space) to increase output, to improve product quality, to better working conditions and the organization of work, and to raise productivity.

Enterprises are classified as having undergone reconstruction or retooling depending on which has had the predominant share of the work and of the outlays.

A sizable portion of capital investments set aside for reconstruction and retooling is at present being used at low efficiency, the growth of output achieved by performing the measures outlined is still small, and the payoff period for the capital invested is long. On the basis of the assignments set forth at the 26th party congress, physical and financial resources released for reconstruction and retooling should on the average be repaid in a third of the time this would take with new construction of analogous production facilities. This considerably reduces the need for manpower. A priority task of associations, ministries and departments is to commit more resources to reconstruction and retooling of existing production operations and to substantially increase their share in total allocation (limits) of capital investments. According to the plan approved for development of the national economy in the 11th Five-Year Plan, the sum total of these resources will increase 21.2 percent over the 10th Five-Year Plan, and the relative share in capital investments for construction of productive capability will be 32.5 percent as against 29.2 percent.

An analysis of the structure of capital investments with respect to project type conducted by the Scientific Research Economics Institute of USSR Gosplan showed that in the years of the 9th and 10th Five-Year Plans the share of outlays for retooling of existing enterprises increased 1.7-fold in all sectors of the economy and 2.3-fold in industry and construction, while within industry, above all in machinebuilding and metal manufacturing, it rose 2.2-fold. On the whole for the entire national economy these outlays increased from 6.7 percent in the 9th Five-Year Plan to 13.2 percent in the 10th. The share of outlays for reconstruction over that period dropped slightly: from 12.1 to 11.7 percent. Only in transportation and communications did the relative share of new construction remain at the previous level.

In the 11th Five-Year Plan the relative share of outlays for retooling and reconstruction rose to 32.5 percent of the total limit of capital investments for construction of production facilities. Given the constant growth in the scale of that construction, in annual plans the relative share of these outlays should be set at a level of approximately 33 percent in the entire economy. For instance, the limits of state capital investments for retooling and reconstruction of existing enterprises in plans for the first 3 years of the 11th Five-Year Plan increased almost 2 billion rubles for the entire economy, which is approximately 9 percent of the actual level in 1981.

The plan for 1983 calls for increasing the limits of capital investments for these purposes in the following sectors without reducing the projections of the 5-year plan: machinebuilding, the fuel and power industry, the chemical industry, the timber industry, the woodworking industry, light industry, food industry, the fishing industry, and the microbiological industry, as well as geology and exploration of mineral resources. Capital investments are also increasing and are showing a higher share in construction of production facilities in the pulp and paper industry, agriculture and material and technical supply.

Economic development plans for the first years of the 11th Five-Year Plan call for increasing capital investments for retooling of existing enterprises by comparison with what the 5-year plan called for in that period in a considerably larger number of ministries and at a far faster pace. For instance, in Minpribor [Ministry of Instrumentmaking, Automation Equipment and Control Systems], Minlegpishchemash [Ministry of Machinebuilding for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances], Minstankoprom [Ministry of Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry], Minelektrotekhprom [Ministry of Electrical Equipment Industry], Mintyazhmash [Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machinebuilding], and Minstroydormash [Ministry of Construction, Road and Municipal Machinebuilding], the share of outlays for retooling has increased 5-7 points on the average. The intended rate substantially exceeds the average rate for the economy.

At the same time the growth rate of output is low in certain ministries though the share of capital investments for these measures is comparatively high. Whereas in Minstankoprom it is more than 70 percent by virtue of retooling, in Minlegpishchemash [Ministry of Light and Food Industry], where the share of retooling in the total volume of capital investments is 55 percent, it is only 39 percent; while in Minlegpishchemash (53.6 percent) it is 35.5 percent.

Ever more frequently in the recent past resources to acquire equipment that is lacking or equipment to replace outdated equipment are being used to retool existing enterprises. Consolidated computations based on reported data of USSR ministries and departments have shown that the share of outlays to acquire equipment represented 75 percent of limits of capital investments for retooling in the 9th Five-Year Plan and 80 percent in the 10th. This growth trend has persisted in the 11th Five-Year Plan. In a number of ministries the share of equipment in limits of capital investments for retooling exceeds 90 percent in the plan for 1983 (Minpribor 93.1 percent, Minstankoprom 91.7 percent, Minlegpishchemash 91.2 percent). This favorable fact ought to have had a substantial impact on the structure of productive capital in the industrial sector, i.e., on the relationship between its active and passive parts in the sense of a substantial growth of the former. But for a lengthy period this ratio has remained almost unchanged, and the actual share of the active part of fixed productive capital is about 50 percent.

In the period of the 10th Five-Year Plan outlays to replace outdated equipment in limits of capital investments for retooling and reconstruction dropped approximately 7 percent, though the share of those investments increased. This indicates that the stock of basic production equipment, i.e., the active part of fixed industrial production capital, is not being renewed at a sufficiently high pace.

This can be illustrated by comparing the age-specific composition of metal-cutting and forging and pressing equipment in machinebuilding over the 1972-1981 period. The relative share of metalworking equipment over 20 years old has dropped very slowly in that sector, and in certain branches (construction materials industry, the coal industry) the amount of metal-cutting equipment installed over 20 years ago has even increased from 3 to 4.5 percent. Still more forging and pressing equipment that old is being used in heavy machinebuilding and ferrous metallurgy.

The obsolescence and physical aging of equipment in heavy machinebuilding producing means of production for other sectors is disturbing. In certain large and leading production associations the share of metal-cutting and forging and pressing equipment sometimes is as high as 30 percent in the principal production operation and still higher in roughing operations.

Not a single sector of the economy has such a variable, dynamic and mobile structure as machinebuilding. In the era of the scientific-technical revolution new discoveries and inventions are occurring continuously, but they become a productive force only if they are embodied in the relevant machines or systems. The faster the latter are created, the sooner they are applied, the greater the benefit that technical progress affords the economy. There is a need to substantially improve the structure of machinebuilding production on the basis of retooling, which must be characterized by an increase in the share of equipment used in manufacturing processes and making it possible to achieve maximum reduction of the labor intensiveness of product manufacture and a maximum rise of labor productivity.

Many types of machines and equipment need to be created and put into production during the 11th Five-Year Plan; their productivity will exceed 1.5-2-fold the level of their counterparts in 1975. Technical progress of machinebuilding itself depends to a considerable degree on the qualitative makeup and structure of the country's stock of machine tools. In order to speed up the retooling of machinebuilding priority should be given to delivering new metal-working equipment to machinebuilding enterprises.

The makeup of the stock of machine tools is being improved along the following lines: maximum use of the results of development of machining technology; broad use of machine tools with programmed control, especially in small-series and series production; creation and introduction of automated complexes of machine tools with numeric programmed control and computer control, intensive replacement of outdated models of metal-cutting machine tools with new models that are more productive because of their higher precision, reliability and service life. In spite of the continuous rise in the technical level of metal-cutting machine tools manufactured, the output of the machine tool building industry still does not altogether meet present-day requirements.

At times the further rise of the technical level of the equipment manufactured is held back by delivery of low-quality component assemblies from enterprises of related branches; the large outside dimensions of the electric motors produced tend to increase the size of the machine tools themselves and to increase their weight (and consequently the consumption of metal as well), and the imperfectness of control equipment detracts from the ease of operation, worker safety and labor productivity. The equipment being produced is becoming more expensive, but its substantial outside dimensions are not eliminating the need to expand production areas. Funds allocated for retooling existing enterprises are mainly being spent to acquire new equipment installed in addition to what is already there (often over and above what the project calls for), for so-called "support" of existing capacities and for other purposes, which do improve working conditions and product assortment and quality, but sometimes there is no growth of capacity or output. As a rule enterprises try

not to include such equipment in the calculation of production capacity, and the low load on machine tools detracts from technical-and-economic indicators of enterprise operation--the output-capital ratio, the coefficient of renewal of fixed productive capital, the load on and use of equipment previously installed, and the shift coefficient of equipment.

The main causes of the higher cost of reproduction per unit of production capacity and the low efficiency of capital investments allocated for retooling include the following: the rise of specific capital investments for retooling (which can be seen from data of Minugleprom [Ministry of Coal Industry], Minstroyaterialov [Ministry of Construction Materials], and Minlegprom [Ministry of Light Industry]) and the fact that the cost of equipment is rising faster than its productivity.

In recent years the cost of processing equipment in light industry has begun to exceed the rise of its productivity noticeably. The ATPR-100 shuttleless loom has a productivity that is 1.5-fold greater than the AT-100-5M shuttle looms; but their cost is 3.4-fold higher than that of the latter. The BD-200 air-jet spinning frames are almost threefold more productive than the P-88-7 ring spinning frames, but they are 4.5-fold more expensive. The ChMD-4 hosiery machines are twofold more productive than the old ChMM-450, but 3.6-fold more expensive. These examples indicate that when wholesale prices are set on machines and equipment machinebuilding ministries and USSR Goskomtsen [State Committee for Prices] are in a number of cases not calling for a reduction of their level per unit of effective benefit.

To correct disproportions in creation of new designs of machines, instruments and apparatus USSR ministries and departments must tirelessly demand that scientific-production associations, including scientific research institutes, project planning and design organizations, pilot and experimental plants and industrial enterprises achieve the maximum benefit to the national economy from reducing their cost per unit capacity (productivity).

An analysis of sectorwide plans for retooling and reconstruction of existing enterprises has shown that great responsibility should be assumed in undertaking to determine the feasibility of retooling and reconstruction within sectors. This especially applies to those enterprises (production operations) with old buildings which are frequently unsuitable to accommodate up-to-date, high-speed and energy-intensive equipment which is larger in size. Of course, the retooling and reconstruction of such enterprises will necessarily involve building new production buildings instead of those now in place. But as a rule additional production area is necessary to increase the volume of production. In this case retooling grows to become a large-scale reconstruction project or new construction requiring sizable capital investments. In addition, recently in a number of extractive industries restoration of worn-out equipment has represented a sizable share of capital investments for retooling and reconstruction, though these outlays do not involve a growth of capacity or output. With a view to more efficient utilization of financial and physical resources of the economy, then, and to obtaining the greatest economic benefit at the lowest cost, it would be advisable in the near future for USSR ministries and departments to draft sectorwide standards governing specific

capital investments, differentiated by types of production operation and technology, and in certain sectors which have very large enterprises manufacturing single units, they might even adopt individual standards governing specific capital investments. In drafting standards governing specific capital investments for retooling and reconstruction of existing enterprises separate treatment should be given to capital investments for restoration of worn-out resources and for other purposes which do not involve a growth of output and production capacity. In this case the planning agencies of associations and USSR ministries and departments will receive a reliable set of instruments for more optimum use of the physical and financial resources allocated in connection with compiling state plans for economic development.

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CS0: 1827/104

CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

RETAIL TRADE FIGURES FOR 1981 GIVEN

Moscow VESTNIK STATISTIKI in Russian No. 11, Nov 82 p 75

[Text]

RETAIL TURNOVER FOR STATE AND COOPERATIVE TRADE INCLUDING PUBLIC EATING, AND THE NUMBER OF RETAIL TRADE AND PUBLIC EATING ENTERPRISES						
	Retail Turnover		Retail Trade Enterprises (at the end of the year)		Public Eating Enterprises (at the end of the year)	
	Millions of Rubles	Per Capita Rubles	Number of Enterprises	Per 10,000 People	Number of Enterprises	Per 10,000 People
USSR	286,013	1,068	696,184	26	308,451	11
in particular: by cities						
Alma-Ata	1,384	1,394	1,868	19	1,044	10
Ashkhabad	412	1,240	633	19	318	9
Baku	1,716	1,069	3,537	22	1,712	11
Vilnius	961	1,890	690	13	616	12
Gor'kiy	1,710	1,248	1,966	14	1,360	10
Donetsk	1,447	1,359	1,569	15	1,164	11
Dnepropetrovsk	1,346	1,200	1,555	14	1,097	10
Dushanbe	644	1,247	966	19	609	12
Yerevan	1,278	1,191	1,904	18	1,221	11
Kazan	1,216	1,196	1,400	14	1,143	11
Kiev	3,667	1,611	3,105	13	2,142	9
Kishinev	1,042	1,871	960	17	671	12
Kuybyshev	1,387	1,111	1,696	14	1,254	10
Leningrad	7,555	1,608	6,905	15	4,743	10
Minsk	2,112	1,546	1,394	10	1,208	9
Moscow	20,344	2,465	10,071	12	8,087	10
Novosibirsk	1,522	1,117	1,474	11	1,206	9
Omsk	1,188	1,107	1,435	13	1,256	12
Odessa	1,423	1,320	2,074	19	1,192	11
Perm	1,152	1,117	1,147	11	1,140	11
Riga	1,647	1,929	1,789	21	1,018	12
Sverdlovsk	1,682	1,350	1,628	13	1,333	11
Tallinn	952	2,071	793	17	659	14
Tashkent	2,251	1,194	3,174	17	1,822	10
Tbilisi	1,414	1,279	1,963	18	1,292	12
Frunze	674	1,206	761	13	576	10
Khar'kov	1,965	1,315	2,163	14	1,634	11
Chelyabinsk	1,232	1,162	1,416	13	1,177	11
Ufa	1,156	1,138	1,356	13	912	9

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HOUSING AND PERSONAL SERVICES

REGULATIONS FOR HOUSING COOPERATIVES DISCUSSED

Moscow KHOZYAYSTVO I PRAVO in Russian No 11, Nov 83 pp 61-64

[Article by S. Zapol'skiy, deputy chief of the Legislation on General Questions of the National Economy Department of the USSR Ministry of Justice and candidate of juridical sciences: "Housing Construction Cooperative: Rights and Responsibilities"]

[Text] During the past 20 years more than 35,000 residential housing cooperatives were constructed in our country, which made it possible to improve housing conditions for more than 3 million families.

The Basic Directions of Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1981-85 and the period up to 1990 provide for further raising the role of housing construction cooperatives (ZhSK). To improve them and to strengthen the legal bases of planning, constructing, operating and repairing ZhSK housing, on 19 August 1982 the USSR Council of Ministers adopted resolution No 765 "On Housing Construction Cooperatives." It provides that housing construction cooperatives are divided in two kinds: those created by the executive committees of local soviets of people's deputies and those organized by enterprises, organizations and institutions.

During the past several years, most ZhSKs were created on the production basis of workers and employees of one or several enterprises or organizations. This tendency deserves reflection in the ZhSK model bylaws of union republics, where, in our opinion, it is necessary to establish an order for creating such cooperatives and them fulfilling functions of a client in agreements with construction organizations and regulating mutual relations occurring in the course of housing operation and repair between ZhSK and those enterprises and organizations which have established cooperatives.

As a rule, such public organizations appear for the purpose of constructing housing in places where the citizens who have joined them either reside there permanently or work at enterprises or organizations located there. However, some council of ministers of ASSRs, executive committees of kray and oblast soviets of people's deputies and some ministries and departments as well as individual organizations were given the right to establish ZhSKs for constructing residential housing in other regions of the country for workers and employees who have worked at least 15 years in regions of the Far North and

comparable areas as well as in the remote and arid regions of Central Asia and the Kazakh SSR and at least 10 years in constructing the Baykal-Amur mainline and related projects. In such cases, council of ministers of union republics determine populated places where construction will be conducted and local soviets of people's deputies allocate parcels of land for this purpose.

It is important to stress that the establishment of ZhSKs at enterprises and organizations is not exhausted by submitting an application to organize them to the executive committee of a local soviet of people's deputies and by the formation of a shareholders' organization. Enterprises and organizations act as clients during planning and construction and exercise technical control over the quality of work being done. It is provided that operation and repair of housing located in the rural area is implemented on a contractual basis by enterprises and kolkhozes as well as by other cooperative organizations which have established such ZhSKs.

In cities and workers settlements where executive committees of local soviets of people's deputies do not have housing operation services, it is expedient to have housing operation services of enterprises and organizations provide such service to available housing and the area adjacent to it on the basis of agreements with a ZhSK. We believe that it is advisable to include such a rule in housing codes.

In developing the principles of housing legislation of the USSR and union republics, resolution No 765 determines the bases for the right to be a member of a cooperative. Specifically, citizens enjoying special and priority rights to receive housing are given an opportunity to join a cooperative in the first order. An enterprise or an organization addresses its recommendations to a corresponding cooperative for this purpose. It is advisable that the right to make such recommendations be also granted to executive committees of local soviets of people's deputies--as regards persons who are unable, for one or another reason, to obtain such a recommendation at their place of work. This order should be included in housing codes of union republics.

Currently the right to make recommendations to join a ZhSK is granted to enterprises, institutions and organizations for their own workers who have worked at least 10 years (less than 10 years for persons who have been disabled or for those having an occupational disease) in regions of the Far North and comparable areas or other remote and sparsely populated areas as well as at enterprises which are of special national economic significance. The list of such regions and enterprises is included in art 22 of the USSR Council of Ministers' resolution No 765.

Servicemen join cooperatives on the basis of the provision on privileges for servicemen, reservists and persons discharged from military service and their families, which was confirmed by resolution No 193 of the USSR Council of Ministers on 17 February 1981. Preference is given to persons who have reached the age-limit of active military service or are no more than 3 years short of reaching such limit. Documents on the right to join cooperatives, which are issued by the USSR Ministry of Defense, must be regarded as special kind of recommendations by the executive committees of soviets of people's deputies.

On the basis of resolution No 765, the laws of union republics should reflect the purpose of creating housing construction cooperatives--improvement of housing conditions for workers, employees and pensioners who reside permanently in a given area--and also grant the right to executive committees of local soviets of people's deputies to register for ZhSK membership those persons who have valid reasons for moving to a given area.

Currently the model ZhSK bylaws of union republics do not contain instructions that a cooperative is established for the purpose of providing living space to citizens who need to improve their living conditions. As a result, persons, who have been provided housing at the expense of a state or another housing fund, have joined a cooperative without sufficient reasons to do so. In order to put the formation of cooperatives in proper order, many executive committees of city and rayon soviets have been registering citizens who wish to join a ZhSK. However, the legal bases for such registration and rules for implementing it are not currently reflected in model ZhSK bylaws and other legislative acts of union republics. This flaw in legislation should be eliminated during preparation of housing codes.

It is well known that housing construction cooperatives are owners of the constructed housing. This presupposes planning and construction for ZhSK at the expense of their own funds. Moreover, bank credits are made available for a considerable part of construction costs. Resolution No 765 of the USSR Council of Ministers establishes that construction of such housing must begin only after at least 30 percent (at least 20 percent in the Kazakh SSR, Siberia, regions of the Far North and comparable areas as well as in miners' settlements) of the estimated construction cost is deposited in the bank which is financing the construction and the granting of credit by the USSR Bank for Financing Capital Investments [Stroybank] or USSR Gossbank for the remainder of the estimated cost. Construction costs of outbuildings, which are for the purpose of having a private subsidiary farm, are to be included in estimated cost of constructing cooperative residential housing. It is provided that the Stroybank and Gossbank will extend credit for cooperative residential housing construction for a 25-year period with repayment of credit annually in equal shares. Thus the change provided by the resolution in conditions for extending credit for construction of ZhSK housing by reducing the amount of the initial deposit from 40 to 30 percent and extending the loan repayment period from 15 to 25 years will make payment of the initial deposit for a cooperative apartment and monthly payments against repaying bank credits easier, which is especially important for young families.

The new order of crediting is introduced for cooperatives which have been organized and have gone through the necessary formalities to obtain bank loans after the issuance of the aforementioned resolution and is not applicable to cooperatives which have been organized and obtained credit earlier, regardless if construction of housing has begun or not. Crediting conditions of existing cooperatives, whose obligations to the bank were determined on the basis of legislation in force earlier, are also not subject to revision.

Cooperatives, which bear the responsibility for repaying credit promptly and in full and for making interest payments on loans, are the borrowers of

Stroybank and Gosbank loans. It is well known that on the strength of a legal provision a housing construction cooperative does not have other funds besides those belonging to citizens--members of a cooperative. Therefore, prompt repayment of bank loans must be ensured through strict fulfillment by cooperative members of their responsibilities ensuing from the model ZhSK bylaws of a union republic and the bylaws of a specific cooperative.

The legislation which is currently in force does not have a clear legal regulation of relations that occur between a cooperative as a juridical person and a member of this cooperative as regards payments which must be made to the bank for the purpose of repaying a loan. This is the main reason why cooperatives have such extensive debts to Stroybank and Gosbank.

This is why participation by every member of a cooperative in repaying the loan which was extended for housing construction must be regarded as a special kind of obligation. Bank credits are extended against one or another type of security, but since the property of a cooperative is a fixed capital no action to recover credit can be instituted against it according to art 23 of the principles of civil legislation of the USSR and union republics. Therefore the only practical security for the extended credit is the combined accumulation of ZhSK members' shares. This is why the relations occurring between a cooperative and its members in connection with a bank loan extended to the cooperative are a form of an obligation which is called upon to guarantee (ensure) repayment of the extended credit. It is important to note that existence of obligatory relations between members of a cooperative and a bank which extends credit was indirectly recognized in resolution No 807 of the USSR Council of Ministers of 25 August 1979.*

It is advisable that the model bylaws of housing construction cooperatives of union republics provide for the order in making official the obligations of ZhSK members to a cooperative and conditions for implementing them and, if necessary, establish measures of responsibility for negligent shareholders. An order must also be established for recovering debts of members of a cooperative for repaying a loan. The order of recovering debts through executive endorsements by state notaries, which is currently provided for by legislation of union republics, is not secured by recognition of a cooperative's right to compulsory recovery of a debt from a shareholder. The model ZhSK bylaws of union republics do not have it in writing that a shareholder assumes the obligation to make payments to a cooperative for repaying the credit. By making amendments in the model ZhSK bylaws of union republics, which are opportunely provided for in art 25 of the USSR Council of Ministers' resolution No 765, it will be possible to establish real legal measures which will guarantee prompt repayment of credit.

The USSR government's new legislative act determines that planning and construction of ZhSK housing is implemented according to state housing construction conditions. However, peculiarities of these cooperatives required that some

* Resolution No 807 of the USSR Council of Ministers of 25 August 1979 "On Releasing Participants in the Great Patriotic War from Paying Interest on Loans for the Construction of Houses of Housing Construction Cooperatives" (Collection of Government Regulations and Decrees [SP] of the USSR, 1979, No 24, p 155).

special rules be provided. In particular, only such ZhSK houses which have confirmed planning estimates and for which parcels of land have been set aside are to be included in capital construction plans. Limits on capital investments, construction and installation, contractual and planning work and materials and equipment for construction of ZhSK housing must be apportioned separately in economic and social development plans.

In deviation from the general rule, housing construction cooperatives are released from expenditures connected with demolishing buildings and structures and from compensating for the cost of plantings and sowing as well as from providing lodgings to persons being resettled from the demolished houses.

There are some other specific features connected with ZhSK. For example, in demolishing a house in connection with the removal of a parcel of land from state or public use and making it a property of a cooperative, a residential house that is equal in area and level of civic improvement is constructed and turned over at the expense of the organization which receives the parcel of land. Built in and attached premises for enterprises and institutions of trade, public catering and consumer services are permitted only with the consent of a cooperative. Moreover, construction of such premises is financed at the expense of state capital investments or funds of cooperative and public organizations without the use of ZhSK funds. In order to free housing construction cooperatives of functions unusual to them, it is also provided that enterprises using water supply, sewerage, heating and power supply networks and installations must reimburse cooperatives for expenditures involved in the technical servicing of these networks and installations.

The resolution of the USSR Council of Ministers provides measures for construction, repair and distribution of available cooperative housing, which reflect the specific character of housing construction cooperatives and are directed at strengthening socialist legality in their activities.

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HOUSING AND PERSONAL SERVICES

SOCIAL SERVICES RESOLUTION DISCUSSED

Moscow SEL'SKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jan 83 p 1

[Article: "In the USSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] The USSR Council of Ministers has adopted a decree on issues related to regulating the work schedule of enterprises, organizations and establishments engaged in serving the public.

The decree notes that the majority of stores, clothing repair and other shops, clinics and residential housing organizations in many cities and rayons operate during hours when the greatest portion of working people are employed in production. In order to work out personal problems, people are often forced to request time off from work, take administratively authorized leave, and even sometimes violate standard labor procedures. Much time is lost by them through poor organization and the inattentive attitude toward customers in the services sector.

Serious shortcomings in the operation of enterprises, organizations and establishments engaged in serving the public have justly aroused censure from working people, have a negative impact on labor discipline and work productivity, and in the final analysis cause great harm to the state.

With the purpose of further improving public services and reducing losses of work time, the USSR Council of Ministers has required the following entities to implement practical measures during the first quarter of 1983 in order to establish appropriate order in the operation of enterprises, organizations and establishments engaged in public services. They are: the councils of ministers of the union and autonomous republics, executive committees of kray and oblast councils of people's deputies, USSR Ministry of Trade, Tsentrosoyuz, USSR Ministry of Communications, USSR Ministry of Health, USSR Ministry of Justice, USSR Administration of State Workers' Savings Banks, USSR Procuracy, USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, USSR Ministry of Education, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Civil Aviation, and other ministries and departments.

The job is to organize matters so that the demands and needs of Soviet persons may be satisfied better and more fully without detriment to their productive activity.

It is proposed that the executive committees of city and rayon councils of people's deputies review the days and hours of operation of service enterprises, organizations and establishments, giving consideration to their being most convenient for working people. Where necessary they are to provide for the opening of shift stores as well as for evening hours for other enterprises engaged in services; to expand the practice of varying schedules of operation, splitting the work day, especially in rural areas; and to make greater use of opportunities for attracting employees into services part time.

The union-republic councils of ministers and USSR ministries and departments are to ensure that measures will be carried out to bring order into the work schedule of enterprises, organizations and establishments engaged in services to the public through improved organization of labor, more skillful placement of persons, strengthened labor discipline, and through the heightened responsibility of each worker in services for his assigned task. They have been called upon to quickly review, together with the USSR Gosplan, proposals from the executive committees of local councils of people's deputies on issues of improving service to the public, and to make appropriate decisions on them.

The union-republic councils of ministers, executive committees of kray and oblast councils of people's deputies, USSR Ministry of Trade, Tsentrosoyuz and other ministries and departments are required to widely disseminate the experience acquired in offering everyday services to working people at their immediate worksites. Taking into consideration the proposals of trade union organizations, they are to establish reception points for repair of shoes and clothing and for laundry and dry cleaning at enterprises and construction sites and on sovkhozes and kolkhozes, to develop business based on prior orders, and to utilize other forms of services that are convenient to the public.

The administrators of enterprises, organizations and establishments are to furnish all possible assistance in resolving the issues indicated and in setting aside facilities and the needed equipment and transportation for these purposes, and to establish conditions allowing working people to make use of the services of such enterprises without loss of their work time.

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HOUSING AND PERSONAL SERVICES

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE COUNSELING SERVICE IN GREAT DEMAND

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Jan 83 p 6

[Article by V. Zhilyayeva: "About the Telephone Counseling Service"]

[Text] A call to the editor: "I am calling about your article on the telephone counseling service. I need to call there very badly, but for some reason the number doesn't answer..." "Where are you from?" "From Kirov." "I must distress you, but the telephone counseling service is so far only for Moscow residents..." "But such a service is not only needed in Moscow..."

Our reader from Kirov is right. N. Savel'yeva from Kostroma, V. Stepanov of Novosibirsk and many other readers have hailed in their letters the creation of the telephone psychological assistance service. True, some have had misgivings, seeing in the service something akin to a confessor: express your feelings and feel better. But all are keenly interested in whether there are plans to create such services in other cities, and when. This was the reason for a new meeting with Professor A. G. Ambrumova, doctor of medical sciences, chief of the All-union Scientific Methodological Center for the Study and Prevention of Extreme Conditions, and Honored Scientist of the USSR.

Ayna Grigor'yevna stated: "We in the Center also receive many letters with questions of interest to the readers of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA. And it is a mistake to see in the telephone counseling service similarity to religious confession. There, people are directed to become reconciled to a different situation, and passive patience is advocated. Our aim is entirely different. It is directed at the formation of a person with an active outlook on life."

"It is also of fundamental importance to us not to get off track in resolving the fate of others," states Senior Psychologist Tat'yana Anatol'yevna (it is customary not to give last names here). "How often we all hear every day from our friends and acquaintances: 'If I was in your place.' For a psycho-therapist this is simply ignorant. We treat people in such a way that the final decision remains theirs. It is important to help a person who is in a state of psychological crisis to look at the problem from a broader perspective. Once the situation is correctly interpreted the relationship to it will change."

"We are trying to make it so that the telephone counseling service will be accessible to all who may need it," says the chief, Elena Nikolayevna. The telephones are only for incoming calls. We use other phones ourselves to call to the city."

"And what should be done if the telephone counseling service is busy at the time of need?"

"Dial the number again and again. The matter of improving and broadening the capabilities of the social and psychological assistance service is being resolved. It is being developed in Leningrad, Riga and Dnepropetrovsk during this five-year plan. Work is being conducted according to the model worked out and highly recommending itself in Moscow. First offices for such services will begin in operation in polyclinics, then in hospitals, and finally the telephone counseling service."

Telephone counselors work a twelve hour shift. This means twelve hours of constant tension, constant readiness to listen to someone's troubles and remain always kind and sympathetic. Only high professionalism and understanding of how necessary their work is helps the counselors withstand such psychological and physical burdens. When I asked why there is a mirror set up in front of the telephone in each office, they answered: "In order to control oneself."

In addition to specialized knowledge, here it is necessary to be broadly well-informed in order to advise people where to turn for help with their problems. Unfortunately, it turns out that residents of Moscow are very poorly informed about the existence and spheres of activity of several services created for them. The "marriage and family" service can help someone. Another needs help with drug addiction, not wishing for his family or work to find out about it. The telephone counseling service gives its callers such referrals. And how widely is the telephone counseling service itself known?

Anna Grigor'yevna hands me a list with a brief text. At the top the picture of a telephone with the number above the dial-- 209-90-04 --immediately attracts attention. So do the words "telefon doveriya" [telephone counseling]. Such printed lists of information about immediate psychological assistance will appear in the near future in all the polyclinics and drug-stores in the city.

In the past, certain norms have shown up. For example, two-thirds of the calls occur in the evening and at night. More than half of the callers are women. Psychologists explain this by the fact that women are more communicative and more inclined to seek help in a difficult time.

It is noteworthy that, after the first anonymous call, during a subsequent call people often give their names. Many express gratitude for assistance.

As far as the reader from Kirov is concerned, I gave his letter in a sealed envelope to Professor A. G. Ambrumova, and she wrote him an answer.

HOUSING AND PERSONAL SERVICES

READERS' QUESTIONS ON HOUSING COOPERATIVES ANSWERED

Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 4, Jan 83 p 14

[Article in the column: "Inquiry Desk": "On Joining a Housing Construction Cooperative." Passages within slantlines are in boldface or italics (questions) in the original.]

[Text] / In order to improve the operations of the housing construction cooperatives (HCC), and continue to raise the population's standard of living, the USSR Council of Ministers adopted the resolution: "On Housing Construction Cooperatives." In letters to the editor, our readers request answers to questions connected with new conditions for issuing credit in the HCC. The consultant is the USSR Bank for Construction's Department of Long-Term Financing for Cooperative and Individual Housing Construction. /

/ What changes have been introduced in the conditions for issuing credit for the construction of cooperative housing? /

The USSR Council of Ministers August 19, 1982 resolution "On Housing Construction Cooperatives" stipulates that the HCCs are offered bank credit for construction of dwellings up to 70% (previously 60%) of the estimated construction costs; up to 80% in the Far East, Kazakhstan, Siberia, rayons of the Far North and their localities (compared to a previous 70% limit); also mining towns.

The credit amortization term is the same for all regions of the country - 25 years instead of 15 as before. Amortization still takes place on an annual basis, but there are equal quarterly payments each year.

The HCC's can avail themselves of bank credit based on estimated construction costs, taking into account the cost of outbuildings for private farming, for private dwellings. Upon receiving long-term credit, the HCCs must turn over to the bank an amount from their own funds equal to not less than 30% (previously at least 40%) of estimated construction costs. This amount is 20% in Kazakhstan, Siberia, the Far East, rayons of the Far North and mining settlements. This also applies to localities subordinate to rayons of the Far North.

Furthermore, construction of HCC dwellings may start only after the cooperatives have paid the bank from their own funds and after credit has been granted to them.

/ What advantages are offered to World War II veterans who join an HCC? /

World War II veterans are able to receive interest-free loans from the USSR State Bank for Construction and the USSR State Bank for construction of HCC dwellings. The right to obtain interest-free bank loans is also granted the wives (husbands) of World War II veterans, effective August 28, 1980. This also applies to survivors who belong to HCC's.

Regardless of the date on which documents asserting this right are presented to the bank, it ceases to calculate interest on the sum remaining to be amortized up to the time limit established by the loan.

/ What kinds of aid may now be rendered by enterprises to their workers who join an HCC? /

Managers of enterprises, institutions and organizations - in agreement with trade-union organizations - are permitted to use funds for economic incentive in order to extend, free of charge, material aid and partial amortization of bank loans extended to workers who have worked at least 5 years (in the case of newly married couples, at least 2) for these enterprises, institutions and organizations. Funds for social and cultural measures and housing construction may be used to render material aid without charge. The amount of such aid may not exceed 15% (20% for newlyweds) of the payment from their own funds up to the time when construction of cooperative housing begins.

In rayons of Siberia, the Far East and the Far North and in localities on the same basis with rayons of the Far North and in rural localities of the RSFSR non-chernozem zone, material aid without charge is rendered in amounts up to 30% and for newlyweds up to 40% of the original payment established.

The amount of aid in this case is 15% of the remaining indebtedness on the loan. For workers with over 10 years' service, the figure is as high as 30% of the remaining indebtedness on the loan.

Material aid without charge for a payment from the buyer's own means for HCC from the economic incentive fund is rendered by enterprises, institutions and organizations effective December 13, 1979, i.e. from the day of adoption by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers and the AUCCTU of the resolution "On the Continued Improvement of Labor Discipline and Reduction of Instability of Cadres in the Economy" and that from funds for social and cultural measures and dwelling construction is rendered effective August 19, 1982.

/ On what date do the new conditions for HCC financing become effective? /

The new conditions for HCC financing become effective August 19, 1982, that is, the date on which the USSR Council of Ministers issued the resolution "On Cooperation in Housing Construction." However, this credit is granted to HCC's who incurred bank loans up to August 19, 1982, according to the previous system and under previously valid conditions.

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HOUSING AND PERSONAL SERVICES

BRIEFS

ENTERPRISES ADJUST HOURS TO CONSUMER--Consumer services enterprises are completing the switch over the new working hours in the RSFSR many consumer services centers are now open from 7 or 8 o'clock in the morning until 8 or 9 o'clock at night. A double shift system is normally used in order to make this possible, but where there are not sufficient staff is supply two shifts a system employing interrupted working days is used. That means the worker works morning and evening but has 3 or 4 hours for lunch. Some other centers will open early on some days of the week and close late on other days. At present it is mostly urban centers that are affected by the new system, but soon it will extend to rural areas as well. Services centers there will stay open until 6 or 7 in the evening, while in summer they will open at 7 or 8 in the morning and close at 8 or 9 o'clock in the evening. This will insure better services for those involved in field work. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 6 Feb 83 LD]

CSO: 1827/122

CONSUMPTION TRENDS AND POLICIES

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN ON LITHUANIAN CONSUMER GOODS INDUSTRY

Moscow SOVETSKAYA TORGOVLYA in Russian 18 Jan 83 p 2

[Article by Yu. Rusenko, deputy chairman of LiSSR Council of Ministers, Vilnius: "Verified by Experience"]

[Text] The republic's government is paying a great deal of attention to raising the organizational and technical level of the trade sector. For a number of years a program for mechanizing heavy and laborious operations at trade enterprises has been in effect in LiSSR. Under this program a large number of stores have undergone reconstruction and have been prepared for mechanized receiving of goods in packages, on pallets and in containers. The plant and equipment of the wholesale stage has been strengthened.

In the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan we began series manufacturing of containers used not only for shipping but also for store display. The containers were made both by organizations in the trade sector and also industrial enterprises. In certain cities, in Klaypeda above all, a great effort was made to improve the entire system of the movement of goods. Workers both in the trade sector and local enterprises of the food branches of industry took part in it.

The republic council of ministers has continually taken up the problems that have arisen in this connection and has removed interdepartmental barriers which were a hindrance. To be specific, we assigned to every ministry and department annual targets for manufacturing mechanization equipment and display containers and followed up on their fulfillment.

But experience has shown that the problems in the movement of goods require an overall solution. That is why a program for reduction of manual labor in industry, transportation and the trade sector in the 11th Five-Year Plan recently began to be carried out in the republic. The republic's gosplan and many ministries and departments took part in drawing it up. The Scientific Research Institute for Economic Problems of Gosplan is providing methods supervision and is monitoring implementation of this program.

Nor should it be forgotten that mechanization of laborious processes in the trade sector is also making it possible to solve important social problems. After all, we are mainly relieving women, who are a majority in the sector, from the laborious processes.

The use of display containers solely for the shipment of food in the cycle "manufacturer; warehouse; sales floor" raises labor productivity approximately 1.7-fold. Last year this afforded a labor saving of about 900 people employed in loading and unloading. In addition, there is a substantial reduction of the need for packages and containers.

Now we are concentrating attention on mechanizing and automating the loading, shipment and unloading of containers and their delivery to the sales floor. An intensified effort is being made to reequip stores and warehouses and to introduce lines and machines for processing and packaging goods. An automatic machine for packing bottles of nonalcoholic beverages and beer in containers has been created in the republic and introduced at the Klaypeda "Shvituris" Brewery. Enterprises of the republic's food industry ministry and specialists of the Klaypeda affiliate of VNIItorgmash [All-Union Scientific Research and Experimental Design Institute of Machinebuilding for the Trade Sector] were involved in its creation and manufacture. Transportation personnel, workers at the brewing combine, and specialists in the trade sector have appraised it at its true value and recommended it for further introduction.

By the end of the 5-year period we intend to draft the plans and specifications for an automatic machine to remove bottles from standard containers. Work is being done to mechanize the stacking of packages of rolled products and flour in containers at enterprises of the procurements ministry. The first steps have been taken toward packing goods in containers at enterprises of the chemical industry and light industry.

Incidentally, at this point I would like to note this circumstance. As far as I know they are working on similar automatic packers in Belorussia. But is it necessary to squander our efforts? Truly it would be more advisable if VNIItorgmash of USSR Minlegpishchemash [Ministry of Machinebuilding for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances] to take this job in its own hands and, using all available designs, develop packing machines for goods of various types for the purpose of putting them into series production.

At the present time there are already a number of foodstuffs--bread, rolls and flour products, mineral water, wine, groceries, etc.--that are transported directly to the trade network from industrial enterprises. The republic's food industry ministry is drafting measures for delivery to the sales floor of products in containers from most of its factories.

At the present time the republic's ministries of procurements, food industry, meat and dairy industry, and fruit and vegetable industry have been given specific targets for the output of products in small packages during the current 5-year period. It has been proposed that the quantity of such products be increased by 40 percent.

Experience has shown that the movement of merchandise needs to be managed astutely. Speeding up the turnover of display containers by just 10 percent is equivalent to giving the republic an additional 5,000 containers without any outlays for metal and materials. This is no simple matter, but it would be rewarding. Scheduling services have been set up in trade administrations of

Klaypeda and Shyaulyay to effectively manage shipments in display containers. They are helping to put order into intracity goods deliveries, to improve the use of containers, and to reduce the need for trucks.

Display containers are now being used in 340 stores in the republic selling food, fruit and vegetables and industrially manufactured goods. The production capability we have created allows for an annual output of more than 22,000 containers. Yet this is not enough. That is why we have also involved industrial enterprises in making containers. They are above all the Lithuanian Production Association "Neris," which is producing 10,000-15,000 units per year, the Klaypeda "Zapremash" Machine Repair Plant. But it seems that industry's capabilities in this regard have not yet been exhausted.

Unfortunately, union industrial and trade ministers are not allocating us enough of the materials necessary for making containers--metal, paints, plastics, rubber tires, and so on. The republic stocks at our disposition are also extremely limited. This is holding back development of the production of containers in the republic. Moreover, neither the trade ministry nor the ministries of the food branches have at present adequate plant and equipment for the manufacture and repair of display containers.

Container repair is a topic in its own right. It is very labor intensive, and at present the republic is unable to organize it on a centralized basis. That is why we made a decision: the enterprise which has the containers on its books is responsible for their external appearance and "operability."

Up to now we have been forced to reconcile ourselves to the use of containers of different designs, even though many of them by no means beautify salesrooms. The Vilnius affiliate of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Industrial Design has now been commissioned to draft a standard of display containers for all manufacturers.

Development of container shipments is also being held up by the poor supply of internal combustion and electric lift trucks, adjustable platforms, and specialized hand lift trucks. The first prototypes of nonpower mechanical trucks have now been manufactured at one of the republic's enterprises. If they are given a "good" by the practitioners--we will organize production.

Of course, we also need other more complicated machines and machinery in line with the progressive directions in development of the movement of merchandise and technology. To be specific, the adjustable platforms used in Kaunas have given a good account of themselves. A decision has been made to organize production of these platforms at one of the enterprises of the republic ministry of motor transport and highways.

The principal organizer of further improvement of the progressive system of movement of merchandise is still the republic's trade ministry. Together with other ministries and departments it faces the task of developing this system in a comprehensive way. Plans call for shipping 5.3 million tons of industrially produced products in containerized and palletized form within 1983, which is 5 percent more than in the previous year. The shipment of food in this manner will moreover increase 40 percent.

Only full use of all potential and possibilities will make it possible to carry out the comprehensive intersector programs for optimalization of the trade sector which have been adopted for the 5-year period.

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CONSUMPTION TRENDS AND POLICIES

CONSUMER GOODS REPAIR SYSTEM CRITICIZED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jan 83 p 3

[Article by B. Mironov "On an Unequal Footing"]

[Text] Judging by this paper's mail, what happened to engineer-mechanic L. V. Dubrovin from the town of Klaipeda is nothing out of the ordinary, on the contrary, it is an all too frequent, commonplace event. Leonid Vasilievich went and bought himself an "Elfa-332 stereo" tape recorder at a "Rybpo" store. He took the new machine home and plugged it in—it didn't work. So he hauled the unfortunate buy back to the store. "Contact a warranty repair shop," said the salesman, "get a paper from them certifying that the tape recorder broke down through no fault of yours, then we'll exchange it." At the "Signalas" repair shop they did discover a factory-flawed microswitch, but refused to issue any paper authorizing an exchange. "This is a minor defect," they said, "there are no grounds for exchanging the set, we'll fix it so you can listen to your heart's content." But Leonid Vasilievich, not expecting any future enjoyment out of something that had broken down the very first minute, stood his ground. "Either exchange the set for another or give me back my 220 rubles." He got neither.

This has been going on for over a year. Each party is standing firm. Dubrovin justly insists that instead of a defective piece of merchandise he be issued another in good working order. After all, the money he paid for it was no mean sum, and hard-earned too. The sales and repair people, on the other hand, point to the standard rules of exchange endorsed by the Ministry of Trade and the USSR State Committee on Standards. According to these rules, tape recorders, along with some other commodities, may be exchanged "if the maker or the warranty repair shop are unable to eliminate within 10 days after the buyer's application any defects that come to light; if after one complicated repair job not connected with defective vacuum appliances, semiconductor items, condensers or resistors, the commodity needs a second repair job of similar complexity; if after two repair jobs involving replacement or re of substandard vacuum appliances...the commodity is again in need of repair..."

How true the joke—the customer is not guaranteed to get a new unit in working condition, but a very hard time instead. Only the writing of it is easy—repair job, second, third. For those who have to face it, just one repair job is trouble enough. Most times it isn't the craftsman who comes to you, you go to the craftsman, and at a time of day that suits him, not you.

A letter from Moscow woman V. Krasnokutskaya indicates that it can happen like this too. "I bought a foot-operated sewing machine manufactured by the Podolsk Mechanical works. It broke down almost at once. I phoned the warranty repair shop on Taganskaya Square. 'We do not accept claims over the telephone,' they told me, 'come in person and bring the machine's technical passport with you.' Well, what could I do? I take a day off without pay and go down to the shop. 'Where did it break?' they ask. I do my best to explain, even using my fingers. 'Can you bring it over?' No, I tell them, there's no elevator in our house and I'm not strong enough to take it down from the fifth floor and haul it up again. At this the receptionist leads me up to a chart on the wall and starts explaining how to go about fixing the machine. 'Take it apart...unscrew this, pull there...' She makes a helpless gesture with her hands: 'What else can I do? There's just no craftsmen to send out.'"

Such is the hassle the customer is guaranteed, we stress once more, by the current rules of exchange. We almost wrote "lawful rules"; the words begged to be put in, but the fact of the matter is that the rules, even though endorsed by a union ministry and a state committee, are in the most literal sense of the word at variance with the law.

Article 41 of the "Fundamentals of Civic Law for the USSR and the Union Republics" (endorsed by the USSR Supreme Soviet in 1961) explicitly states that the customer who is sold substandard quality goods has the right to demand of the salesman either its replacement or a corresponding decrease in its price or a free correction of the defect or a full refund. This must be done without benefit of explanatory notes, simple or complex repair jobs.

In an article titled "Toward a higher class" (July 17, 1981) PRAVDA pointed out that the rules of exchange do not conform to the conditions laid down by the law. And what follows? There was a response from the USSR Ministry of Trade which said: "The current rules of exchange for industrial goods that fail to last through their warranty period not only regulate relations between store and client, but touch on the relationships that exist in the field of commodity exchange between trade on the one hand and industry and service shops on the other. Mindful of the interministerial character of the problem, the USSR Ministry of Trade submitted to the USSR State Planning Committee as far back as 1977 its proposals for altering economic relations between various industries in connection with the exchange, repair or restoration of technologically complex goods in the interests of maximum convenience to the client. However, the problem was not resolved."

It follows from this response that the ministry is doing its utmost to serve the client's best interests whereas the State Planning Commission does not wish to help. However, the question immediately arises: what does Gosplan have to do with it and why is the Ministry of Trade unsuccessfully knocking at the Commission's doors since 1977 if it is the ministry itself along with the Standards committee that authorized the current rules of exchange? If they could adopt unlawful rules, what is there to prevent them from bringing those rules into conformity with the law? Or let us phrase the question thus: what is the ministry more interested in--sticking to the rules or abiding by the law?

All signs indicate that the ministry is in no hurry to amend the rules. It is easy to see why. At present all the work connected with defective products lies on the shoulders of the repair shops operated by the Ministry of Services to the Population. Under the law this should be the responsibility of the Ministry of Trade. Accept the faulty merchandise from the client, do all the paperwork, send it back to the manufacturer...What a lot of extra work this entails! Is the ministry up to it? "No," admits N. Kuzmenkov, deputy chief of the Ministry of Trade's Trade Organization Administration, "we do not have the necessary warehouses or transport. But we are currently readying an experiment to test a new system for exchanging goods that fail their warranty period."

The new rules boil down to this: the warranty repair shop hands out an invoice on the spot authorizing an exchange of a defective TV set (the experiment concerns only television sets) and forthwith restores the apparatus without shipping it to the manufacturer. The experiment was long in the making, but arguments about its implementation are still in full swing. "We'll accept the TV's, get them fixed, then what do we do with them?" asks L. Bakhmetkov, the deputy minister of the RSFSR Ministry of Services to the Population, as well he might. The manufacturers, for their part, are saying: "The sets were handed in to you, so you think up a way to dispose of them."

So now we know the standpoint of those ministries whose plants produced radios, TV sets and technologically complex home appliances. Why worry? Warranty repair jobs, no matter how many cause them no financial loss because the cost of repairs is included in the item's retail price. Why should the plants take back in their own sloppy work? Some of them might have to stop production because their warehouses would be stacked to the brim with defective tape recorders or refrigerators. That is why they are all for the existing system whereby the spoilage of industry is handled by the service system.

Without so much as a twinge of embarrassment the manufacturers of consumer goods advertise in each item's technical passport: "Guaranteed period of work..." though everybody well knows that what is guaranteed is not its flawless performance but merely its repair in the time frame indicated. "In order not to mislead the buyer or raise any false hopes," writes A. Kupiansky from the city of Tiraspol, Moldavian SSR, "the entry in the technical passport must be changed from 'guaranteed period of work' to 'guaranteed repairs.' And if they do promise a period of good performance then any 'premature' breakdown should be viewed as an emergency."

Some emergency! In 1980 in the Russian Federation alone 9000 warranty shops repaired consumer items with factory-produced defects to the tune of 13.65 million rubles; in 1981 that figure increased to 15 million. A sad "growth" rate indeed! There are other figures that point to a steady rise in spoilage. In the first 9 months of 1982 (the latest data available) the FSFSR State Trade Inspection conducted 67.9 thousand quality checks of industrial and food commodities. In 45.2 thousand instances they came up with substandard goods. Furthermore, 1812 orders were issued to either terminate or introduce a special regime to regulate acceptance of low-quality merchandise by consignees. Manufacturers had 67.5 million rubles stricken off their plan fulfillment reports

by the Trade Inspection for producing and selling substandard merchandise. Because of violation of standards, the State Committee on Standards in the first six months of 1982 was forced to divest of their supreme-quality markings 288 items of home electric appliances, garments, leather goods, etc.

The article "Toward a Higher Class" mentioned earlier brought no response whatever from the USSR Procuracy which is dutybound to enforce strict and unswerving adherence to Soviet laws. We cannot say whether its people did not read the article or made like they never saw it. We hope that this time they will finally look into the question, after all, it is one of deep concern for millions of Soviet people. The system of relationships between the customer, store, warranty repair shop and manufacturer is today so organized as to leave the customer without any rights. He it is who pays for all the foul-ups. Pays with his money, time and good mood. The system must be reorgonized. It should work not against the customer, but in defense of his interests as laid down by the law.

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